



MARCH 2010

What's new at St. Mark's?

I get that question often. Since many of our readers are gone or outside the loop, let me update you on recent events in your church.

- Lent is here! Ash Wednesday, February 17, began our journey to Jerusalem with Jesus, to the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter. Several small groups from the 40 days of community campaign continue to meet regularly. The Nooma Bible series is being used to help teach the weekly lessons. Wednesday morning worship at 11:30 in the chapel features great hymns of faith. Wednesday evening services focus on the Lord's Prayer, and the Sunday texts form a sermon series on real issues of daily life.
- The Annual Meeting is history and a call committee for a new Pastor of Faith Formation is forming. The 2010 budget includes the position of associate pastor, with a goal of having an additional pastor here this summer.
- Internship continues. Intern Jon Lund is midway through his year with us, and this week I interviewed several candidates for next year. St. Mark's continues it's commitment to help raise up leaders for the Church.
- Missionaries leave for Tanzania March 23. This group is being led by Nate and Andrea Luong and will be commissioned March 21.

This is the time of year when we ponder God's love, and grow in our awareness of God's grace. May the spiritual disciplines of praying, giving, and fasting draw you closer to Christ and his Church.

Pastor Steve
prsteven@stmarks-nsp.org

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Women's Safety Awareness Day – March 6

This program is for all women of St. Mark's from teens to 90's. Julie Urban, a Ramsey County Deputy and member of St. Mark's, will share the latest information on keeping ourselves and our property safe. She will discuss personal and home safety, identity theft, and the newest trends in crime. The Women's Breakfast is Saturday, March 6 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall. Registration is \$4.

Girl Scout Sunday – March 14

Girl Scouts are invited to participate in Girl Scout Sunday on March 14. Volunteers are needed to greet, read, usher and host refreshments after each service. If you are interested, contact Suzanne Ericson at 704-0397 or maericson2000@aol.com.

Ken Medema in Concert – March 21

Ken Medema will perform a benefit concert for Vibrant Faith Ministries and World Hunger on Sunday, March 21 at 7 pm at St. Andrew's Church in Mahtomedi. **That morning, he will also play during the 8:45 am worship service at St. Mark's.** Don't miss either of these great opportunities to hear his music. Though blind from birth, Ken has demonstrated his extraordinary musical vision for over 32 years in every venue imaginable for 50 - 50,000 people.

Needed Immediately: Wedding Coordinator

St. Mark's is in need of a second wedding coordinator. This position receives compensation through the church from fees charged to the couple in the amount of \$150 per wedding and is assisted by a wedding custodian. If interested, please contact Kathy Arveson at 651-777-7451, ext. 232 or kathy@stmarks-nsp.org.

Holy Week Worship Schedule



Palm Sunday, March 28

Pancake breakfast available in Rees Hall

- Worship services at 8:45 and 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday, April 1

- Chapel worship at 11:30 am followed by a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall
- 7 pm worship in the sanctuary

Good Friday, April 2

- Children's chapel service at 10 am
- 7 pm worship in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 4

Cinnamon Rolls available in Rees Hall

- Traditional chapel worship at 7:30 am
- Celebration services at 8:45 & 10:15 am
- Family service at 10:15 am in the chapel

Attention St. Mark's Photographers

Do you have some photos that you would like displayed in our new St. Mark's rotating gallery? We are looking for beautiful, artistic photographs from our many talented St. Mark's members. Please submit your photo to the church office by **March 7**. If you have any questions please contact Brenda Linder at brendalinder@comcast.net or 651.269.0344. For criteria and categories, please pick up an information sheet at the Welcome Center or follow the "online forms and resources" link at www.stmarks-nsp.org.

A window into the mind of a seminarian *Insights from the Intern*

“And now I will show you the most excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging symbol. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains but have not love, I am nothing.” These verses, from 1st Corinthians 13, are the beginning of one of the most familiar scriptures for all people. It commonly appears in the same location, a wedding, which should not be surprising because it does beautifully describe love. However, Paul did not write with marriage in mind but instead the community.

When he wrote to the people of Corinth he was writing to a group of people who were struggling to love one another. This community was probably not far off from churches and other communities we discover ourselves in today. The reason struggles occur is because when people gather and commit to journey together there is going to be disagreements, difficulties and distractions along the way. These issues are the reality of are: families, schools, jobs, sports teams and of course, church. We come together with a hope that this place will create meaning, is transformational and life changing. How-

ever, we quickly find out it is not always that easy! But what Paul tells us is that love, “always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” This quote pushes us when we disagree, have difficulties and are overcome with distractions, to find love. To find a way each day, each month and each year to protect one another in love; creating an environment of trust, a place where people receive hope and know they do not have to persevere alone.

The call from Paul is to let love fill us up completely. So, let love become the basis of why you invite people to St. Mark’s. The question becomes what would it look like if when people walked into St. Mark’s and proclaimed that this place is following the way of love! A love that created the world sacrificed itself on the cross and rose again enabling us to love one another as we were first loved. Let us protect those who we agree and disagree with, be trustworthy to those who need an ear, and hope for and with those whose life is spinning out of control. Let us show people that St. Mark’s is a place where love happens!

Intern Pastor Jon Lund
jonl@stmarks-nsp.org

April newsletter deadline: Noon, March 15

Mailing for the next issue of *Markings* is scheduled for **Thursday, March 25 at 8:30 am**. Please call the church office at 777-7451 if you are willing to help.

World Day of Prayer – March 5

This year's World Day of Prayer service will be held at North Haven Church on March 5 at 1 pm. Dessert and coffee will be served after the service. Bring a donation for the food shelf.



Don't miss St. Mark's wonderful new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The musical by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber is based on St. John's Gospel account of the last week of Jesus' life. All shows start at 7 pm.

Show Dates:

April 8,9,10,11 (Thur-Sun)
April 15,16,17,18 (also Thur-Sun)

Ticket cost:

\$12 for adults
\$10 for students and seniors.

To reserve tickets:

Call: 651-777-7451, ext. 420
E-mail: stmarksdrama@yahoo.com

Call Committee Nominations

If you are interested in nominating someone for the call committee, please talk to Pastor Steve or Mark McKenzie.

Action Corps Team for March 2010

Team Captains: Jan Ross & Doris Holger
B thru CARR

Hot Buttered Popcorn presents...



Hot Buttered Popcorn drama ministry is happy to present the amazing, spectacular story of *Holy Moses* a great and thrilling account of the life of one of the old testaments biggest heroes. Please join us for one or more of three performances by the incredibly talented children of St. Mark's. You'll love 'em! Show times: **March 12 and 13 at 6:30 pm and March 14 at 2 pm.**

Wilderness Canoe Base project week

Believe it or not spring is actually coming...and with it, the sound of hammers and saws at Wilderness Canoe Base. If you are interested in spending a week doing fun building projects at this wonderful Lutheran camp on the Gunflint Trail at the edge of the BWCA, either the week of May 9 or May 16, please contact Steve Yahr at (651)-779-2330 or steven.w.yahr@usfamily.net.

First Communion Class – March 27

All children third grade and above are invited to attend the First Communion class with their parents on Saturday, March 27 from 10 am—noon in Fellowship Hall. We have a fun-filled morning planned for children who are eligible to receive their first communion. You'll learn about Jesus' last supper with his disciples as well as our tradition of the Lord's Supper here at St. Marks. We'll make bread together to be served at the Maundy Thursday service, April 1 at 7 pm. Please call or e-mail Judy Larkins at 777-7451, ext. 224 or judy1@st.marks-nsp.org to reserve your spot.

Youth Ministry

Love God, your God, with your whole heart: love him with all that's in you; love him with all you've got! Write these commandments that I've given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (The Message)

I have come to appreciate this verse in many ways. To me, it gives us the instruction that with every fiber of our being we are to be committed in our relationship with God. God claims all of us all the time even when we don't deserve it. He never fails us. Why then do you think so many of us claim God only when he fits into our schedule?

We also have the instructions that not only are we to love God "with all we've got"; we are to teach our children about our God. This verse even gives us the manual on how and when to accomplish this task. Talk to your children – it is that easy. Let them see that this important to you. If you don't show them who will?

As many of you may know, I have been participating in a certification school for the past couple of months with Vibrant Faith Ministries (this organization is formally known as the Youth and Family Institute). One of the most exciting things I have discovered during this process is the fact that my brain and my heart have meshed together, and that now I have a language to convey what my heart has known for so long. This may seem silly to some of you – not having a language, but truly I say that there is a sense of purpose that comes along with being able to communicate what is deep in your heart.

You may be asking yourself how these two things fit together. I now know that most of what our children learn about their faith is what they learn from trusted personal relationships, usually their parents. Statistics show that faith formation in children is shaped by what parents do and don't do. It is my hope and prayer that many of the families at St. Mark's will take on these conversations in their homes. It may seem very awkward to start these conversations, but just start them. You may be surprised at how little you talk and how much listening you will do. The kids in this congregation have a lot to say. You don't have to be an expert. Start by asking your children if they know why you send them to Sunday School, Wednesday J.A.M. or Confirmation? What do they think about these opportunities? Or, does your family feel its important to worship together? Why or why not?

These are great places to start. I would love to hear from you about these conversations—in your home, car, or wherever they take place. Or, if you need help getting started let me know. Send me an email at jackiet@stmarks-nsp.org. Good Luck!

Peace and joy to you,
Jackie Tellin

Thanks to painting & carpeting crew

Thanks to a great group of volunteers, the sanctuary and narthex were painted and the narthex has new carpeting. Matt Larkins led the painting crew of Paul Anderson, Kevin Green, Al Lindner, Mark McCahon, Mark

McKenzie, Paul Oelze, John Tellin and Rob Thompson. Tom Kamrath, Kurt Kleppe, Bill Kunze, Mark Peterson, John Pottratz and Alan Wyman removed the old carpeting and prepped the area for the carpet installation. Thanks for sharing your time and talents!

office hours

Monday—Thursday
8:00 am —4:00 pm

staff

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